

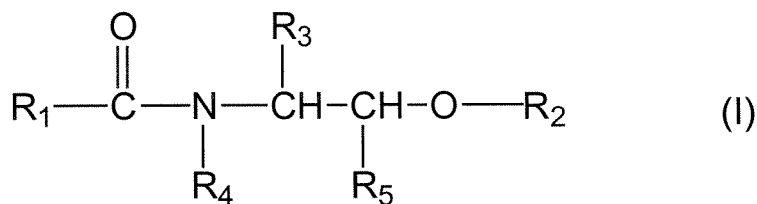
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A liquid cosmetic composition, comprising, in a cosmetically acceptable aqueous medium, at least one liquid fatty alcohol, at least one ceramide compound and at least one cationic surfactant, wherein the at least one fatty liquid alcohol contains no more than one hydroxyl group; **and**
wherein the composition has a viscosity of less than or equal to 1,000 cP.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is of formula (I):



wherein:

- R₁ is chosen from:

- a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group,

wherein said C₁-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group is optionally substituted with at least one

hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is optionally esterified by an acid R₇COOH,

R₇ being chosen from a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅

hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₃₅ hydrocarbon group of R₇ is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group that is optionally esterified by a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid, wherein said C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group;

- a group R''-(NR-CO)-R', wherein R is chosen from hydrogen and a C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon group substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, and wherein R' and R'' are chosen from hydrocarbon groups, wherein the sum of the carbon atoms in R' and R'' ranges from 9 to 30, and wherein R' is a divalent radical; and

- a group R₈-O-CO-(CH₂)_p, wherein R₈ is a C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon group, and p is an integer ranging from 1 to 12;

- R₂ is chosen from hydrogen, a saccharide group, a sulfate residue, a phosphate residue, a phosphorylethylamine group and a phosphorylethylammonium group;

- R₃ is chosen from hydrogen and a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₂-C₃₃ hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₃₃ hydrocarbon group is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is

- optionally esterified by an acid chosen from an inorganic acid and an acid R₇COOH, wherein R₇ has the same meaning as above, or

- optionally etherified by a group chosen from a (glycosyl)_n group, a (galactosyl)_m group, a sulfogalactosyl group, a phosphorylethylamine group and a phosphorylethylammonium group, wherein n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 1 to 8 ,

and wherein R₃ is optionally substituted with at least one C₁-C₁₄ alkyl group;

- R₄ is chosen from hydrogen, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an optionally hydroxylated, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₃-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group, a group -CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-O-R₆, wherein R₆ is chosen from a C₁₀-C₂₆ hydrocarbon group and a group R₈-O-CO-(CH₂)_p, wherein R₈ is a C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon group, and p is an integer ranging from 1 to 12;

- R₅ is chosen from hydrogen and a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁-C₃₃ hydrocarbon group optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is optionally etherified by a group chosen from a (glycosyl)_n group, a (galactosyl)_m group, a sulfogalactosyl group, a phosphorylethylamine group, and a phosphorylethylammonium group, wherein m and n have the same meanings as above; and

with the proviso that when R₃ and R₅ are each hydrogen or when R₃ is hydrogen and R₅ is a methyl group, then R₄ is not chosen from hydrogen, a methyl group, and an ethyl group.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 20, wherein R₁ is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₅-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 20, wherein R in group R''-(NR-CO)-R', is a monohydroxylated C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon group.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 20, wherein R₂ is a saccharide group chosen from a (glycosyl)_n group, a (galactosyl)_m group and a

sulfogalactosyl group, wherein n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 1 to 8.

24. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 20, wherein R_3 is a C_{15} - C_{26} α -hydroxyalkyl group, wherein the α -hydroxyl group of said α -hydroxyalkyl is optionally esterified by a C_{16} - C_{30} α -hydroxy acid.

25. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is chosen from:

- 2-(N-linoleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-oleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-behenoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-[N-(2-hydroxypalmitoyl)amino]-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3,4-octadecanetriol, and
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-hexadecanediol.

26. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is chosen from bis(N-hydroxyethyl-N-cetyl)malonamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-(3-cetyloxy-2-hydroxypropyl)amide of cetylic acid and N-docosanoyl-N-methyl-D-glucamine.

27. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is present in a concentration ranging from 0.0001% to 20% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

28. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 27, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is present in a concentration ranging from 0.001% to 10% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

29. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 28, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is present in a concentration ranging from 0.005% to 3% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

30. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one liquid fatty alcohol is chosen from lauryl alcohol, isomyristyl alcohol, isostearyl alcohol, isocetyl alcohol, isoarachidyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, 2-butyloctanol and oleyl alcohol.

31. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 30, wherein said at least one fatty alcohol is chosen from isostearyl alcohol and isocetyl alcohol.

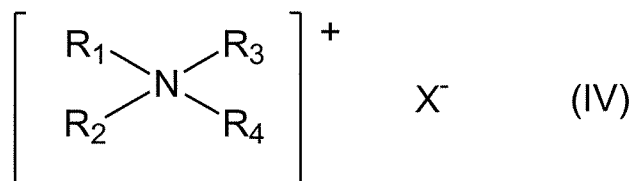
32. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one liquid fatty alcohol is present in a concentration ranging from 0.5% to 10% by weight, relative to the approximate total weight of the composition.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 32, wherein said at least one liquid fatty alcohol is present in a concentration ranging from 1% to 10% by weight, relative to the approximate total weight of the composition.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 33, wherein said at least one liquid fatty alcohol is present in a concentration ranging from 1.5% to 3% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from:

A) quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV):



wherein X^- of formula (IV) is an anion chosen from halide anions, (C_2-C_6) alkyl sulfate anions, phosphate anions, alkyl sulfonate anions, alkylaryl sulfonate anions, and anions derived from an organic acid, and

(i) R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aromatic groups and from linear and branched aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein said aliphatic groups optionally comprise at least one heteroatom, and then

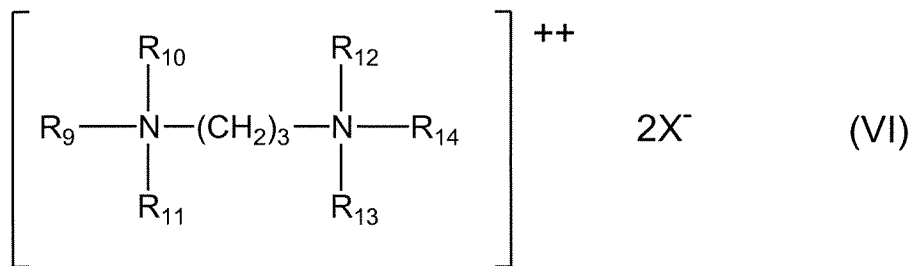
R₄ of formula (IV) is chosen from linear and branched alkyl groups comprising from 20 to 30 carbon atoms; or alternatively

(ii) R₁ and R₂, of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aromatic groups and from linear and branched aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein said aliphatic groups optionally comprise at least one heteroatom, and then

R₃ and R₄, of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from linear and branched alkyl groups comprising from 12 to 30 carbon atoms, wherein said alkyl groups comprise at least one group chosen from ester groups and amide groups;

B) - quaternary ammonium salts of imidazolinium;

C) - quaternary diammonium salts of formula (VI):



wherein

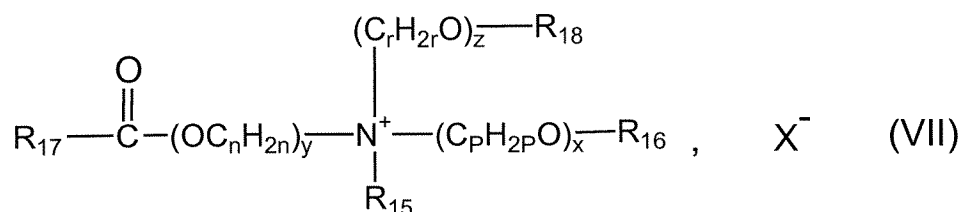
R₉ is chosen from aliphatic groups comprising from about 16 to 30 carbon atoms,

R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃ and R₁₄, which may be identical or different, are chosen from hydrogen and alkyl groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

X⁻ of formula (VI) is an anion chosen from halide anions, acetate anions, phosphate anions, nitrate anions and methyl sulfate anions;

and

D) - quaternary ammonium salts, comprising at least one ester functional group, of formula (VII),:

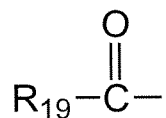


wherein

- R₁₅ is chosen from C₁-C₆ alkyl groups, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl groups, and dihydroxyalkyl groups;

- R₁₆ is chosen from:

- group



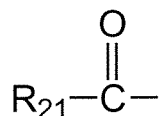
- linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₁-C₂₂ hydrocarbon groups

R₂₀, and

- hydrogen,

- R₁₈ is chosen from:

-group



- linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₁-C₆ hydrocarbon groups R₂₂,
and
 - hydrogen,
 - R₁₇, R₁₉ and R₂₁, which are identical or different, are each chosen from linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₇-C₂₁ hydrocarbon groups;
 - n, p and r, of formula (VII), which are identical or different, are each integers having values ranging from 2 to 6;
 - y of formula (VII) is an integer having a value ranging from 1 to 10;
 - x and z, of formula (VII), which are identical or different, are each integers having values ranging from 0 to 10;
 - X⁻ of formula (VII) is an anion chosen from organic anions and inorganic anions, and chosen from simple anions and complex anions;
- with the provisos that the sum x + y + z, of formula (VII), has a value ranging from 1 to 15, that when x of formula (VII) has a value of 0, then R₁₆ denotes R₂₀, and that when z of formula (VII) has a value of 0, then R₁₈ denotes R₂₂.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from a quaternary ammonium salt of formula (IV) wherein X⁻ of formula (IV) is an anionic halide chosen from chloride, bromide and iodide.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from a quaternary ammonium salt of formula (IV) wherein X^- of formula (IV) is methyl sulfate.

38. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV) wherein X^- of formula (IV) is an anion derived from an organic acid chosen from acetate and lactate.

39. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV) wherein in (i), R_1 , R_2 and R_3 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aryl groups and alkylaryl groups.

40. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV) wherein in (i), R_1 , R_2 and R_3 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aliphatic groups comprising at least one heteroatom chosen from oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, and halogens.

41. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from quaternary ammonium salts of

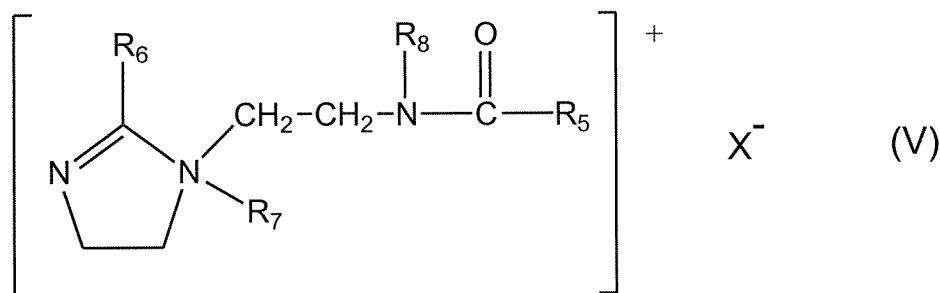
formula (IV) wherein in (ii), R_1 and R_2 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aryl groups and alkylaryl groups.

42. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV) wherein in (ii), R_1 and R_2 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aliphatic groups comprising at least one heteroatom chosen from oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and halogens.

43. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV) wherein in (ii), R_1 and R_2 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and chosen from alkyl groups, alkoxy groups, alkylamide groups and hydroxyalkyl groups.

44. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV) wherein in (ii), at least one of R_3 and R_4 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, is chosen from $(C_{12}-C_{22})$ alkylamido (C_2-C_6) alkyl groups and $(C_{12}-C_{22})$ alkyl acetate groups.

45. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is a quaternary ammonium salt of imidazolinium of formula (V):



wherein R₅ of formula (V) is chosen from alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R₆ of formula (V) is chosen from hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R₇ of formula (V) is chosen from C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, R₈ of formula (V) is chosen from hydrogen and C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, and X⁻ of formula (V) is an anion chosen from halide anions, phosphate anions, acetate anions, lactate anions, alkyl sulfate anions, alkyl sulfonate anions and alkylaryl sulfonate anions.

46. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 45, wherein in said formula (V), R₅ of formula (V) is chosen from alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, wherein said alkenyl groups and alkyl groups are derived from tallow fatty acids.

47. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 45, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is the quaternary diammonium salt propanetallowdiammonium dichloride.

48. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from behenyltrimethylammonium salts, stearamidopropyl dimethyl (myristyl acetate) ammonium salts, Quaternium-27 and Quaternium-83.

49. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is present at a concentration ranging from 0.2% to 10% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

50. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 49, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is present at a concentration ranging from 0.5% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

51. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 50, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is present at a concentration ranging from 1% to 3.5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

52. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said cosmetically acceptable aqueous medium is chosen from water and a mixture of water and at least one cosmetically acceptable solvent.

53. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 52, wherein said cosmetically acceptable solvents are chosen from monoalcohols, polyalcohols, and glycol ethers.

54. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, further comprising at least one additive chosen from thickeners, perfumes, pearlescent agents, surfactants, preservatives, sunscreens, silicones, anionic polymers, nonionic polymers, cationic polymers, amphoteric polymers, proteins, protein hydrolysates, fatty acids, fatty alcohols, fatty esters, hydroxy acids, vitamins, provitamins, panthenol, vegetable oils, animal oils, mineral oils, and synthetic oils.

55. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 54, wherein said at least one additive is 18-methyleicosanoic acid.

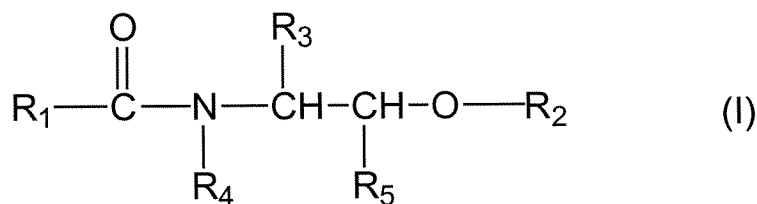
56. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said composition is in the form of a composition chosen from: a shampoo; a leave-in conditioner; a rinse-out conditioner; compositions for at least one of permanent waving hair, straightening hair, dyeing hair and bleaching hair; a rinse-out composition to be applied before or after shampooing hair, dyeing hair, bleaching hair, permanent waving

hair or hair straightening, or between two stages of permanent waving hair or hair straightening; and a leave-in composition for holding a hair style, for hair shaping or for hair styling.

57. (Currently Amended) A method of making a **liquid** composition to be applied to the hair, comprising combining, in a cosmetically acceptable aqueous medium, at least one liquid fatty alcohol, at least one ceramide compound and at least one cationic surfactant, wherein the at least one fatty liquid alcohol contains no more than one hydroxyl group; **and**

wherein the composition has a viscosity of less than or equal to 1,000 cP.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is of formula (I):



wherein:

- R₁ is chosen from:

- a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is optionally esterified by an acid R₇COOH, R₇ being chosen from a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅

hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₃₅ hydrocarbon group of R₇ is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group that is optionally esterified by a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid, wherein said C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group;

- a group R''-(NR-CO)-R', wherein R is chosen from hydrogen and a C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon group substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, and wherein R' and R'' are chosen from hydrocarbon groups, wherein the sum of the carbon atoms in R' and R'' ranges from 9 to 30, and wherein R' is a divalent radical; and

- a group R₈-O-CO-(CH₂)_p, wherein R₈ is a C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon group, and p is an integer ranging from 1 to 12;

- R₂ is chosen from hydrogen, a saccharide group, a sulfate residue, a phosphate residue, a phosphorylethylamine group and a phosphorylethylammonium group;

- R₃ is chosen from hydrogen and a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₂-C₃₃ hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₃₃ hydrocarbon group is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is

- optionally esterified by an acid chosen from an inorganic acid and an acid R₇COOH, wherein R₇ has the same meaning as above, or

- optionally etherified by a group chosen from a (glycosyl)_n group, a (galactosyl)_m group, a sulfogalactosyl group, a phosphorylethylamine group and a phosphorylethylammonium group, wherein n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 1 to 8 ,

and wherein R₃ is optionally substituted with at least one C₁-C₁₄ alkyl group;

- R₄ is chosen from hydrogen, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an optionally hydroxylated, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₃-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group, a group -CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-O-R₆, wherein R₆ is chosen from a C₁₀-C₂₆ hydrocarbon group and a group R₈-O-CO-(CH₂)_p, wherein R₈ is a C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon group, and p is an integer ranging from 1 to 12;
 - R₅ is chosen from hydrogen and a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁-C₃₃ hydrocarbon group optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is optionally etherified by a group chosen from a (glycosyl)_n group, a (galactosyl)_m group, a sulfogalactosyl group, a phosphorylethylamine group, and a phosphorylethylammonium group, wherein m and n have the same meanings as above; and
- with the proviso that when R₃ and R₅ are each hydrogen or when R₃ is hydrogen and R₅ is a methyl group, then R₄ is not chosen from hydrogen, a methyl group, and an ethyl group.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is chosen from:

- 2-(N-linoleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-oleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-behenoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-[N-(2-hydroxypalmitoyl)amino]-1,3-octadecanediol,

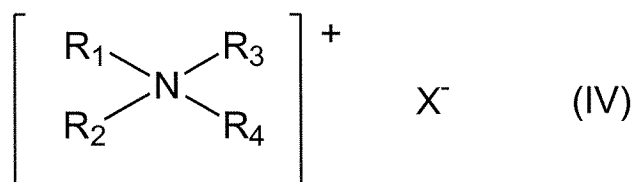
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3,4-octadecanetriol, and
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-hexadecanediol.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is chosen from bis(N-hydroxyethyl-N-cetyl)malonamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-(3-cetyloxy-2-hydroxypropyl)amide of cetylic acid and N-docosanoyl-N-methyl-D-glucamine.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein said at least one liquid fatty alcohol is chosen from lauryl alcohol, isomyristyl alcohol, isostearyl alcohol, isocetyl alcohol, isoarachidyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, 2-butyloctanol and oleyl alcohol.

62. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from:

A) quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV):



wherein X^- of formula (IV) is an anion chosen from halide anions, (C_2-C_6) alkyl sulfate anions, phosphate anions, alkyl sulfonate anions, alkylaryl sulfonate anions, and anions derived from an organic acid, and

(i) R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aromatic groups and from linear and branched aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein said aliphatic groups optionally comprise at least one heteroatom, and then

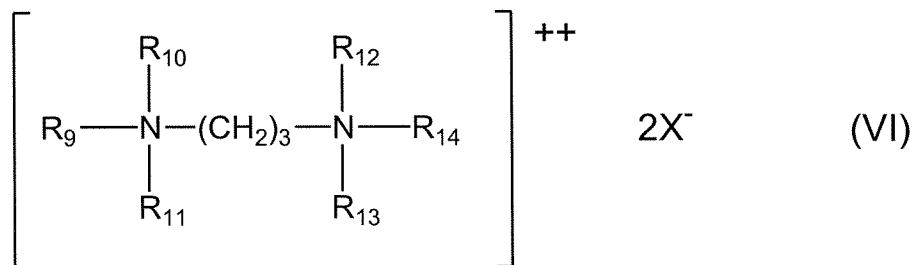
R_4 of formula (IV) is chosen from linear and branched alkyl groups comprising from 20 to 30 carbon atoms; or alternatively

(ii) R_1 and R_2 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aromatic groups and from linear and branched aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein said aliphatic groups optionally comprise at least one heteroatom, and then

R_3 and R_4 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from linear and branched alkyl groups comprising from 12 to 30 carbon atoms, wherein said alkyl groups comprise at least one group chosen from ester groups and amide groups;

B) - quaternary ammonium salts of imidazolinium;

C) - quaternary diammonium salts of formula (VI):

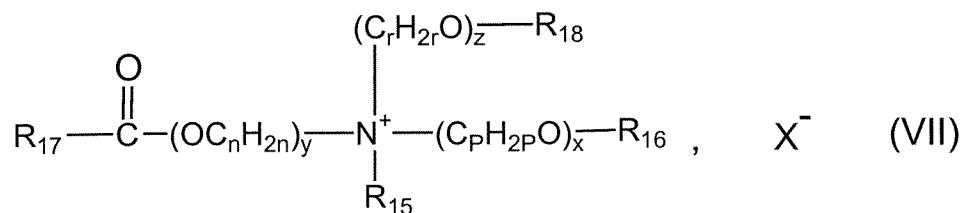


wherein

R_9 is chosen from aliphatic groups comprising from about 16 to 30 carbon atoms, R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} , which may be identical or different, are chosen from hydrogen and alkyl groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

X^- of formula (VI) is an anion chosen from halide anions, acetate anions, phosphate anions, nitrate anions and methyl sulfate anions; and

D) - quaternary ammonium salts, comprising at least one ester functional group, of formula (VII),:

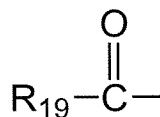


wherein

- R_{15} is chosen from C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups, C_1 - C_6 hydroxyalkyl groups, and dihydroxyalkyl groups;

- R_{16} is chosen from:

- group



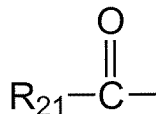
- linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C_1 - C_{22} hydrocarbon groups

R_{20} , and

- hydrogen,

- R₁₈ is chosen from:

-group



- linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₁-C₆ hydrocarbon groups R₂₂,

and

- hydrogen,

- R₁₇, R₁₉ and R₂₁, which are identical or different, are each chosen from linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₇-C₂₁ hydrocarbon groups;

- n, p and r, of formula (VII), which are identical or different, are each integers having values ranging from 2 to 6;

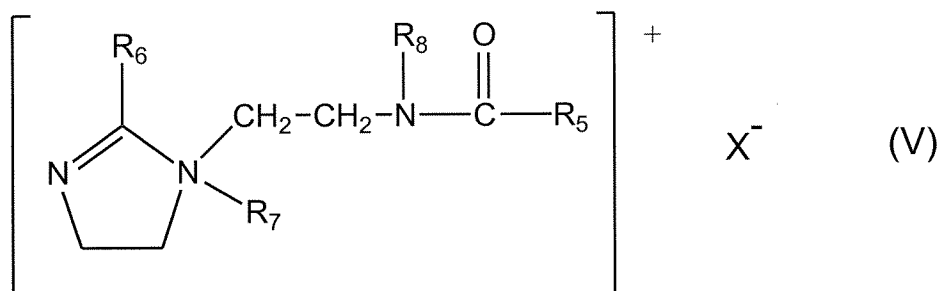
- y of formula (VII) is an integer having a value ranging from 1 to 10;

- x and z, of formula (VII), which are identical or different, are each integers having values ranging from 0 to 10;

- X⁻ of formula (VII) is an anion chosen from organic anions and inorganic anions, and chosen from simple anions and complex anions;

with the provisos that the sum x + y + z, of formula (VII), has a value ranging from 1 to 15, that when x of formula (VII) has a value of 0, then R₁₆ denotes R₂₀, and that when z of formula (VII) has a value of 0, then R₁₈ denotes R₂₂.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 62, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is a quaternary ammonium salt of imidazolinium of formula (V):

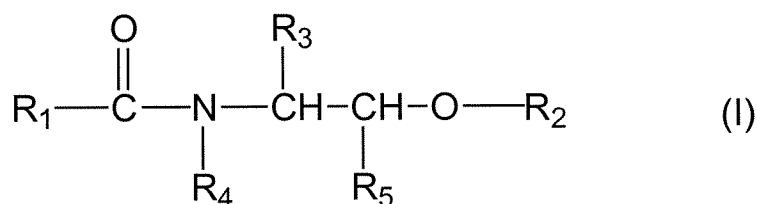


wherein R₅ of formula (V) is chosen from alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R₆ of formula (V) is chosen from hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R₇ of formula (V) is chosen from C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, R₈ of formula (V) is chosen from hydrogen and C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, and X⁻ of formula (V) is an anion chosen from halide anions, phosphate anions, acetate anions, lactate anions, alkyl sulfate anions, alkyl sulfonate anions and alkylaryl sulfonate anions.

64. (Currently Amended) A method for treating keratinous materials, comprising applying at least one **liquid** composition to said keratinous materials, and then optionally rinsing with water, wherein said at least one composition comprises, in a cosmetically acceptable aqueous medium, at least one liquid fatty alcohol, at least one ceramide compound and at least one cationic surfactant, wherein the at least one fatty liquid alcohol contains no more than one hydroxyl group; **and**
wherein the composition has a viscosity of less than or equal to 1,000 cP.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said keratinous materials are chosen from hair.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is of formula (I):



wherein:

- R₁ is chosen from:

- a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is optionally esterified by an acid R₇COOH, R₇ being chosen from a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅ hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₃₅ hydrocarbon group of R₇ is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group that is optionally esterified by a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid, wherein said C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group;

- a group R''-(NR-CO)-R', wherein R is chosen from hydrogen and a C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon group substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, and wherein R' and R''

are chosen from hydrocarbon groups, wherein the sum of the carbon atoms in R' and R'' ranges from 9 to 30, and wherein R' is a divalent radical; and

- a group $R_8-O-CO-(CH_2)_p$, wherein R_8 is a C_1-C_{20} hydrocarbon group, and p is an integer ranging from 1 to 12;

- R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, a saccharide group, a sulfate residue, a phosphate residue, a phosphorylethylamine group and a phosphorylethylammonium group;

- R_3 is chosen from hydrogen and a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C_2-C_{33} hydrocarbon group, wherein said C_1-C_{33} hydrocarbon group is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is

- optionally esterified by an acid chosen from an inorganic acid and an acid R_7COOH , wherein R_7 has the same meaning as above, or

- optionally etherified by a group chosen from a (glycosyl)_n group, a (galactosyl)_m group, a sulfogalactosyl group, a phosphorylethylamine group and a phosphorylethylammonium group, wherein n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 1 to 8 ,

and wherein R_3 is optionally substituted with at least one C_1-C_{14} alkyl group;

- R_4 is chosen from hydrogen, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an optionally hydroxylated, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C_3-C_{50} hydrocarbon group, a group $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-O-R_6$, wherein R_6 is chosen from a $C_{10}-C_{26}$ hydrocarbon group and a group $R_8-O-CO-(CH_2)_p$, wherein R_8 is a C_1-C_{20} hydrocarbon group, and p is an integer ranging from 1 to 12;

- R_5 is chosen from hydrogen and a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C_1-C_{33} hydrocarbon group optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein

said hydroxyl group is optionally etherified by a group chosen from a (glycosyl)_n group, a (galactosyl)_m group, a sulfogalactosyl group, a phosphorylethylamine group, and a phosphorylethylammonium group, wherein m and n have the same meanings as above; and

with the proviso that when R₃ and R₅ are each hydrogen or when R₃ is hydrogen and R₅ is a methyl group, then R₄ is not chosen from hydrogen, a methyl group, and an ethyl group.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is chosen from:

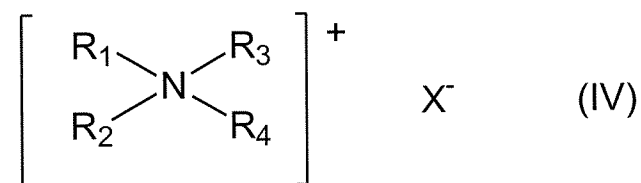
- 2-(N-linoleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-oleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-behenoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-[N-(2-hydroxypalmitoyl)amino]-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3,4-octadecanetriol, and
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-hexadecanediol.

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is chosen from bis(N-hydroxyethyl-N-cetyl)malonamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-(3-cetyloxy-2-hydroxypropyl)amide of cetylic acid and N-docosanoyl-N-methyl-D-glucamine.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said at least one liquid fatty alcohol is chosen from lauryl alcohol, isomyristyl alcohol, isostearyl alcohol, isocetyl alcohol, isoarachidyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, 2-butyloctanol and oleyl alcohol.

70. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from:

A) quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV):



wherein X^- of formula (IV) is an anion chosen from halide anions, (C_2-C_6) alkyl sulfate anions, phosphate anions, alkyl sulfonate anions, alkylaryl sulfonate anions, and anions derived from an organic acid, and

(i) R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aromatic groups and from linear and branched aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein said aliphatic groups optionally comprise at least one heteroatom, and then

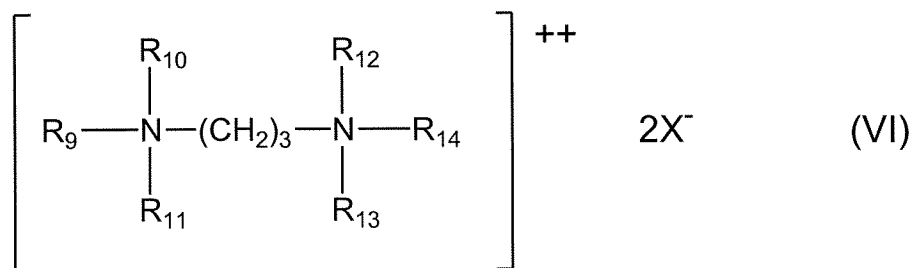
R_4 of formula (IV) is chosen from linear and branched alkyl groups comprising from 20 to 30 carbon atoms; or alternatively

(ii) R_1 and R_2 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aromatic groups and from linear and branched aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein said aliphatic groups optionally comprise at least one heteroatom, and then

R_3 and R_4 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from linear and branched alkyl groups comprising from 12 to 30 carbon atoms, wherein said alkyl groups comprise at least one group chosen from ester groups and amide groups;

B) - quaternary ammonium salts of imidazolinium;

C) - quaternary diammonium salts of formula (VI):



wherein

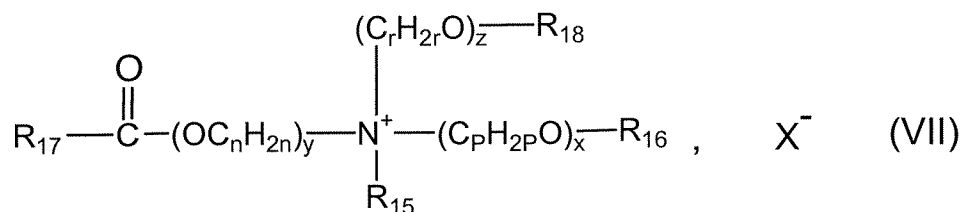
R_9 is chosen from aliphatic groups comprising from about 16 to 30 carbon atoms,

R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} , which may be identical or different, are chosen from hydrogen and alkyl groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

X^- of formula (VI) is an anion chosen from halide anions, acetate anions, phosphate anions, nitrate anions and methyl sulfate anions;

and

D) - quaternary ammonium salts, comprising at least one ester functional group, of formula (VII),:

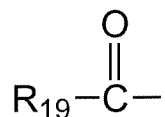


wherein

- R₁₅ is chosen from C₁-C₆ alkyl groups, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl groups, and dihydroxyalkyl groups;

- R₁₆ is chosen from:

- group



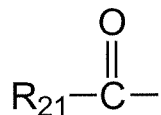
- linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₁-C₂₂ hydrocarbon groups

R₂₀, and

- hydrogen,

- R₁₈ is chosen from:

-group

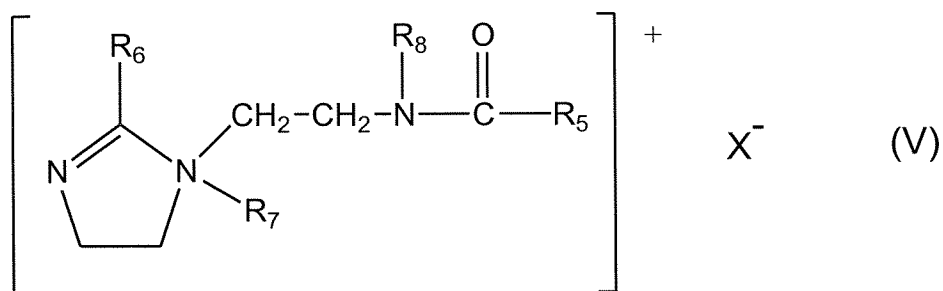


- linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₁-C₆ hydrocarbon groups R₂₂,

and

- hydrogen,
 - R_{17} , R_{19} and R_{21} , which are identical or different, are each chosen from linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C_7 - C_{21} hydrocarbon groups;
 - n , p and r , of formula (VII), which are identical or different, are each integers having values ranging from 2 to 6;
 - y of formula (VII) is an integer having a value ranging from 1 to 10;
 - x and z , of formula (VII), which are identical or different, are each integers having values ranging from 0 to 10;
 - X^- of formula (VII) is an anion chosen from organic anions and inorganic anions, and chosen from simple anions and complex anions;
- with the provisos that the sum $x + y + z$, of formula (VII), has a value ranging from 1 to 15, that when x of formula (VII) has a value of 0, then R_{16} denotes R_{20} , and that when z of formula (VII) has a value of 0, then R_{18} denotes R_{22} .

71. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is a quaternary ammonium salt of imidazolinium of formula (V):



wherein R₅ of formula (V) is chosen from alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R₆ of formula (V) is chosen from hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R₇ of formula (V) is chosen from C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, R₈ of formula (V) is chosen from hydrogen and C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, and X⁻ of formula (V) is an anion chosen from halide anions, phosphate anions, acetate anions, lactate anions, alkyl sulfate anions, alkyl sulfonate anions and alkylaryl sulfonate anions.

72. (Previously Presented) The method for treating of keratinous materials according to claim 64, wherein said treating is chosen from: a shampooing; conditioning; dyeing; bleaching; permanent waving; and straightening.

73. (Previously Presented) The method for treating of keratinous materials according to claim 64, wherein said at least one composition is applied to said keratinous materials before or after treating said keratinous materials.

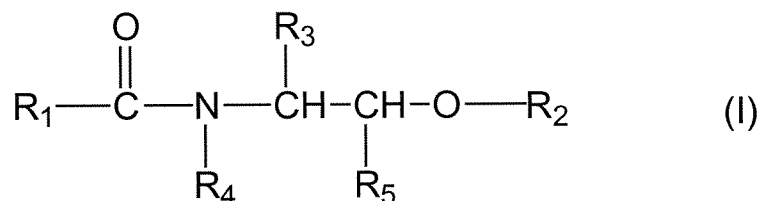
74. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting keratinous materials from physical or chemical attacks, comprising applying at least one **liquid** composition to said keratinous materials, wherein said at least one composition comprises, in a cosmetically acceptable aqueous medium, at least one liquid fatty alcohol, at least one

ceramide compound and at least one cationic surfactant, wherein the at least one fatty liquid alcohol contains no more than one hydroxyl group; **and**

wherein the composition has a viscosity of less than or equal to 1,000 cP.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein said keratinous materials are chosen from hair.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according claim 74, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is of formula (I):



wherein:

- R₁ is chosen from:

- a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₅₀ hydrocarbon group is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is optionally esterified by an acid R₇COOH, R₇ being chosen from a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅ hydrocarbon group, wherein said C₁-C₃₅ hydrocarbon group of R₇ is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group that is optionally esterified by a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid, wherein said C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group;

- a group $R''-(NR-CO)-R'$, wherein R is chosen from hydrogen and a C_1-C_{20} hydrocarbon group substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, and wherein R' and R'' are chosen from hydrocarbon groups, wherein the sum of the carbon atoms in R' and R'' ranges from 9 to 30, and wherein R' is a divalent radical; and

- a group $R_8-O-CO-(CH_2)_p$, wherein R_8 is a C_1-C_{20} hydrocarbon group, and p is an integer ranging from 1 to 12;

- R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, a saccharide group, a sulfate residue, a phosphate residue, a phosphorylethylamine group and a phosphorylethylammonium group;

- R_3 is chosen from hydrogen and a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C_2-C_{33} hydrocarbon group, wherein said C_1-C_{33} hydrocarbon group is optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is

- optionally esterified by an acid chosen from an inorganic acid and an acid R_7COOH , wherein R_7 has the same meaning as above, or

- optionally etherified by a group chosen from a (glycosyl) $_n$ group, a (galactosyl) $_m$ group, a sulfogalactosyl group, a phosphorylethylamine group and a phosphorylethylammonium group, wherein n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 1 to 8 ,

and wherein R_3 is optionally substituted with at least one C_1-C_{14} alkyl group;

- R_4 is chosen from hydrogen, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an optionally hydroxylated, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C_3-C_{50} hydrocarbon group, a group $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-O-R_6$, wherein R_6 is chosen from a $C_{10}-C_{26}$ hydrocarbon group and a group $R_8-O-CO-(CH_2)_p$, wherein R_8 is a C_1-C_{20} hydrocarbon group, and p is an integer ranging from 1 to 12;

- R₅ is chosen from hydrogen and a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁-C₃₃ hydrocarbon group optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, wherein said hydroxyl group is optionally etherified by a group chosen from a (glycosyl)_n group, a (galactosyl)_m group, a sulfogalactosyl group, a phosphorylethylamine group, and a phosphorylethylammonium group, wherein m and n have the same meanings as above; and

with the proviso that when R₃ and R₅ are each hydrogen or when R₃ is hydrogen and R₅ is a methyl group, then R₄ is not chosen from hydrogen, a methyl group, and an ethyl group.

77. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is chosen from:

- 2-(N-linoleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-oleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-behenoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-[N-(2-hydroxypalmitoyl)amino]-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3,4-octadecanetriol, and
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-hexadecanediol.

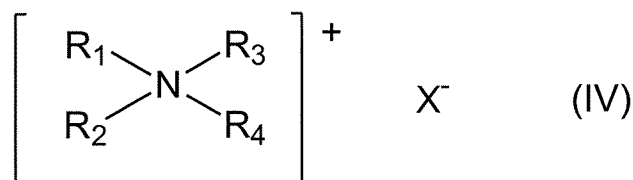
78. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein said at least one ceramide compound is chosen from bis(N-hydroxyethyl-N-

cetyl)malonamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-(3-cetyloxy-2-hydroxypropyl)amide of cetylic acid and N-docosanoyl-N-methyl-D-glucamine.

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein said at least one liquid fatty alcohol is chosen from lauryl alcohol, isomyristyl alcohol, isostearyl alcohol, isocetyl alcohol, isoarachidyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, 2-butyloctanol and oleyl alcohol.

80. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is chosen from:

A) quaternary ammonium salts of formula (IV):



wherein X^- of formula (IV) is an anion chosen from halide anions, (C_2-C_6) alkyl sulfate anions, phosphate anions, alkyl sulfonate anions, alkylaryl sulfonate anions, and anions derived from an organic acid, and

(i) R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 , of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aromatic groups and from linear and branched aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein said aliphatic groups optionally comprise at least one heteroatom, and then

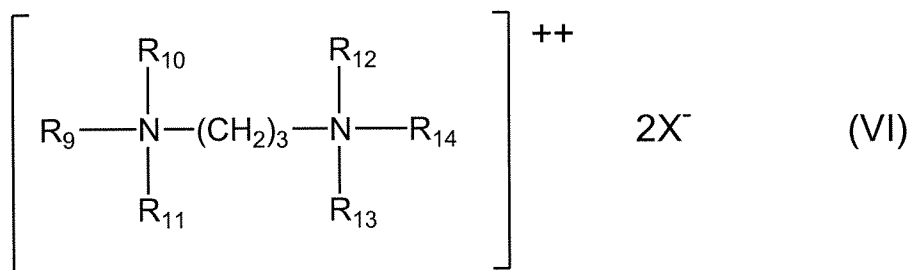
R₄ of formula (IV) is chosen from linear and branched alkyl groups comprising from 20 to 30 carbon atoms; or alternatively

(ii) R₁ and R₂, of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from aromatic groups and from linear and branched aliphatic groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein said aliphatic groups optionally comprise at least one heteroatom, and then

R₃ and R₄, of formula (IV), which may be identical or different, are chosen from linear and branched alkyl groups comprising from 12 to 30 carbon atoms, wherein said alkyl groups comprise at least one group chosen from ester groups and amide groups;

B) - quaternary ammonium salts of imidazolinium;

C) - quaternary diammonium salts of formula (VI):



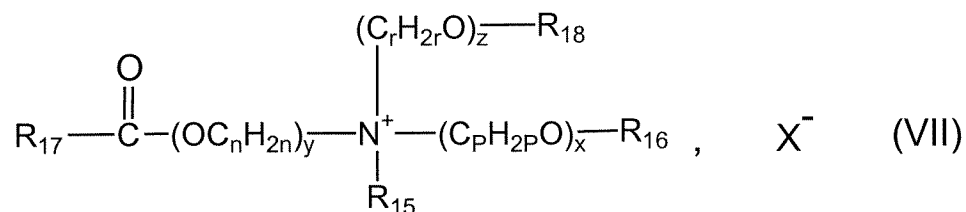
wherein

R₉ is chosen from aliphatic groups comprising from about 16 to 30 carbon atoms,

R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃ and R₁₄, which may be identical or different, are chosen from hydrogen and alkyl groups comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

X⁻ of formula (VI) is an anion chosen from halide anions, acetate anions, phosphate anions, nitrate anions and methyl sulfate anions;
 and

D) - quaternary ammonium salts, comprising at least one ester functional group, of formula (VII),:

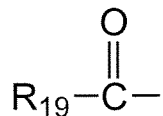


wherein

- R₁₅ is chosen from C₁-C₆ alkyl groups, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl groups, and dihydroxyalkyl groups;

- R₁₆ is chosen from:

- group



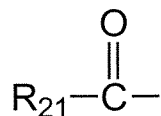
- linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₁-C₂₂ hydrocarbon groups

R₂₀, and

- hydrogen,

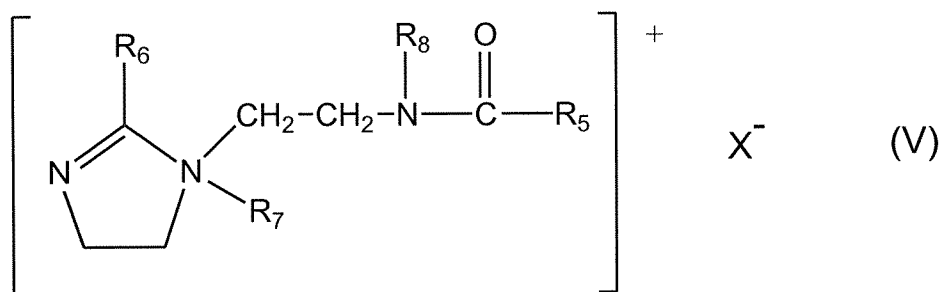
- R₁₈ is chosen from:

-group



- linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₁-C₆ hydrocarbon groups R₂₂,
and
 - hydrogen,
 - R₁₇, R₁₉ and R₂₁, which are identical or different, are each chosen from linear and branched, saturated and unsaturated, C₇-C₂₁ hydrocarbon groups;
 - n, p and r, of formula (VII), which are identical or different, are each integers having values ranging from 2 to 6;
 - y of formula (VII) is an integer having a value ranging from 1 to 10;
 - x and z, of formula (VII), which are identical or different, are each integers having values ranging from 0 to 10;
 - X⁻ of formula (VII) is an anion chosen from organic anions and inorganic anions, and chosen from simple anions and complex anions;
- with the provisos that the sum x + y + z, of formula (VII), has a value ranging from 1 to 15, that when x of formula (VII) has a value of 0, then R₁₆ denotes R₂₀, and that when z of formula (VII) has a value of 0, then R₁₈ denotes R₂₂.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 80, wherein said at least one cationic surfactant is a quaternary ammonium salt of imidazolinium of formula (V):



wherein R₅ of formula (V) is chosen from alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R₆ of formula (V) is chosen from hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, alkenyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, and alkyl groups comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R₇ of formula (V) is chosen from C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, R₈ of formula (V) is chosen from hydrogen and C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, and X⁻ of formula (V) is an anion chosen from halide anions, phosphate anions, acetate anions, lactate anions, alkyl sulfate anions, alkyl sulfonate anions and alkylaryl sulfonate anions.

82. (Currently Amended) A liquid cosmetic composition, comprising, in a cosmetically acceptable aqueous medium, at least one liquid fatty alcohol, at least one ceramide compound and at least one cationic surfactant, wherein the at least one fatty liquid alcohol is present in an amount ranging from 1.5 % to 10% by weight of the total composition; **and**

wherein the composition has a viscosity of less than or equal to 1,000 cP.